

Docket 60058
Serial No. 10/811,447

PATENT APPLICATION

REMARKS

This is in full and timely response to the initial Office Action on the merits dated April 5, 2005. Reconsideration and reexamination are respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

By the foregoing amendment, claims 7, 8, 11, and 14 have been canceled and claims 1, 9, 10, 12 and 13 have been amended. Therefore, claims 1-6, 9-10, 13, and 15-20 remain in this application with claims 1 and 13 being independent.

IN THE CLAIMS:

35 U.S.C. § 102 and § 103 Rejections:

Claims 1, 2, and 6-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 6,856,042 to Kubota. Further, claims 1-5 and 7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 2,177,801 to Erron. Finally, claims 13 and 16 stand rejected under 35. U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kubota in view of Erron. However, the examiner has indicated that claims 11, 12, 14, 15, 17, 18, 19, and 20 are merely objected to as depending from a rejected base claim and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Therefore, without admitting the propriety of these rejections, claim 1 has been amended to include all of the limitations of claim 11 along with all of the limitations of claims 7 and 8 which are intervening claims. Accordingly, claims 7, 8, and 11 have been canceled. Claims 9, 10, and

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12 have been amended to properly depend from claim 1. Therefore, claim 1 should now be in condition for allowance and such is respectfully requested along with claims 2-6, 9, 10 and 12 which depend directly or indirectly therefrom.

Further, claim 13 has been amended to include all of the limitations of claim 14 and, without admitting the propriety of the present rejections, claim 14 has been canceled. Therefore, claim 13 should now be in condition for allowance and such is respectfully requested along with claims 15-20 which depend therefrom.

This application should now be in condition for allowance and such is respectfully requested. If the examiner has any suggestions that would place this application in even better condition for allowance, the examiner is invited to contact the applicant's representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully Submitted,

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